



The Pastor's Connexion

A Publication of Reverend Terry Goodman

Friday October 13, 2006

Pastor's Thoughts....

I attended the Natural Church Development seminar in Knoxville this past Sunday. I was very encouraged by what I learned. For some time now, the Lord has been laying on my heart the idea that I need to get the laity of the church more involved in the ministry of the church. I have never ascribed to the idea that the ministry of the church was the responsibility of the pastor. I do certain aspects of the church's ministry, but the laity are responsible for the bulk of the ministry performed. In theory this sounds good. In practice, I fall woefully short of this goal.

At our last Administrative Board session, I presented the idea of moving us towards a volunteer based church ministry. This would be an ambitious move and I asked permission to form a team of people to help me study the issue. After last weekend's seminar, I now see this volunteer based ministry as important, but now see it in a more balanced light.

Natural Church Development looks at eight characteristics of growing churches. One of these characteristics is akin to the volunteer ministry approach I am advocating. However, I now see volunteer ministry as simply one spoke in an eight spoke wheel. Rather than simply focusing on this aspect of our ministry, we need to balance our ministry with a more even handed approach to all eight areas.

I am now ready to advocate that the church begin the process outlined in Natural Church Development as a way for us to move forward in ministry and mission. I'll share more thoughts on this topic with you in the coming months.

-tdg



Support for the Wonderful Wednesday meals has been good. We had between 40-60 people for each of the meals. So far, we have raised between \$250-300 for our Conference Fair Share

Apportionment.

For those that might be interested, our fair Share for 2006 is \$21,567.00

- We had 7 persons attend our Secrets of a Great Marriage seminar. They liked what they saw and want to do the entire series of about 6 hours on an upcoming weekend.
- Our World Religion study has had some high attendance moments and some so-so moments. The two week video on Islam was especially well received.
- Our Tuesday night Alpha group is holding steady with 8-9 persons in attendance each week.
- Our choir has begun rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata and Kathy Olinger is back to direct us. Rehearsals are going well and Christmas is just around the corner!
- Rehearsals have also begun for the children's Christmas program.



Happening This Week!

Sunday October 15, 2006

- 9:30 a.m.—Macedonia UMC Worship
- 11:00 a.m.—Virginia Avenue UMC Worship
- 3:00 p.m. – Worship Team
- 4:00 p.m. – Virginia Ave UMW World Thank Service
- 6:00 p.m. – Virginia Ave Administrative Board

Monday October 16, 2006

- 7:00 p.m. – Council on Ministries meeting

Tuesday October 17, 2006

- 6:00 p.m. – Alpha Group Meeting

Wednesday October 18, 2006

- 6:00 p.m. – World Religions – Buddhism
- 7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday October 21, 2006

- 10:00 a.m. – Abel Center Walkathon
- 1:00 p.m. – Hilson/Moten Wedding
- 6:00 p.m. – Pastor's Table

Sunday October 22, 2006

- 9:30 a.m.—Macedonia UMC Worship
- 11:00 a.m.—Virginia Avenue UMC Worship

Monday October 23, 2006

- 8:30 am-1:30 pm: Clergy Gathering in Bristol, TN
- 7:00 p.m. – Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday October 24, 2006

- 6:00 p.m. – Alpha Group

Wednesday October 25, 2006

- 6:00 p.m. – Wonderful Wednesday Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. – World Religions – Christianity
- 7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

- The Wednesday night children and youth classes seem to be going well. I note that on meal nights, we seem to have a very good turnout for these classes.
- We are going to have one more Wednesday night meal on November 8th.
- Dick Erskine, with the help of Willie Lowe, continues to work on the sound system. We now have a choir microphone suspended from the ceiling.
- Diane McGinnis has been faithfully updating our sign in front of the church each week. I appreciate her service.

Have You Checked the Following Web Sites :

Give these sites another try. I am still trying to resolve the click through issue I am having.

[Virginia Avenue UMC Web Page](#)

(Please note: Neither I, nor the church, are responsible for the content of all these sites.)

[Holston Annual Conference](#)

[The Official United Methodist Church Web Site](#)

[Our Church Online Calendar](#)

[The Pastor's Blog](#)